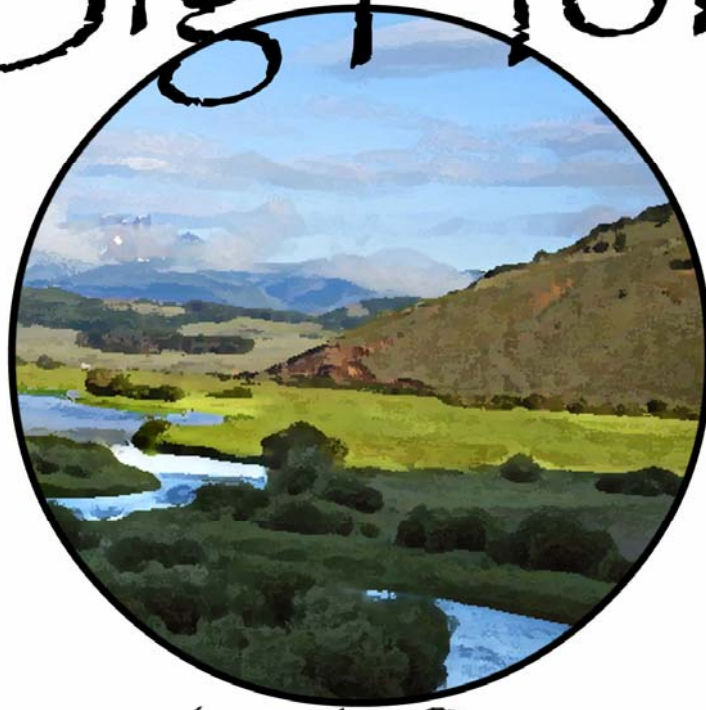
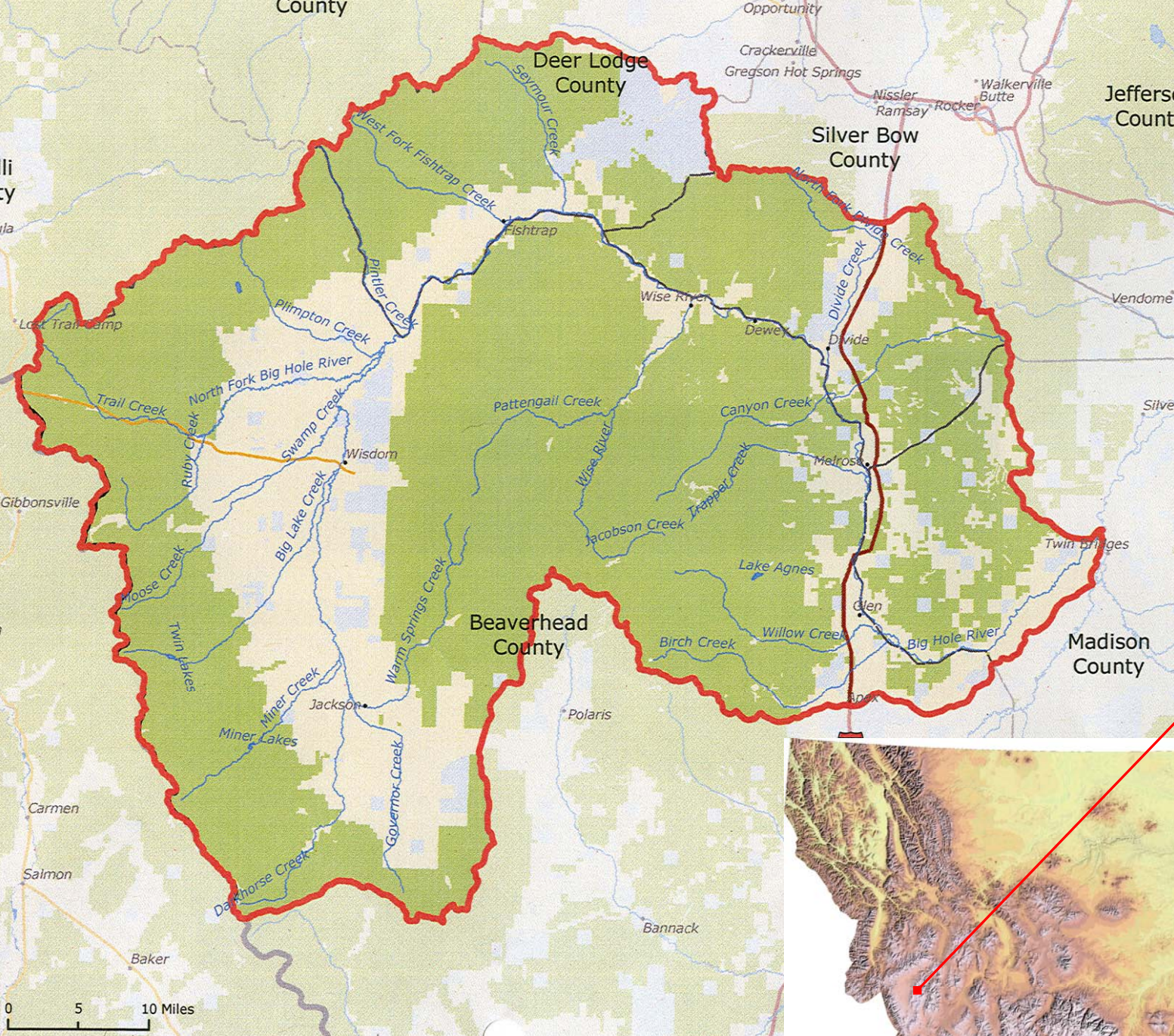


Big Hole



Watershed Committee



Big Hole Basin







Mission

- The purpose of the Big Hole Watershed Committee is to seek understanding of the river and agreement among individuals and groups with diverse viewpoints on water use and management in the Big Hole watershed.
- The Big Hole Watershed Committee is committed to:
 - Involving all interests that are willing to seek practical solutions that benefit all interests;
 - Promoting a common understanding among individuals and groups with diverse viewpoints;
 - Fostering the ability of local individuals and groups to create effective solutions to local problems, and;
 - Seeking long-term solutions based on sound information.



Drought Management Plan

- Adopted in 1999
- The purpose of the drought management plan is to mitigate the effects of low stream flows and lethal water temperatures for fisheries (particularly fluvial Arctic grayling) through a voluntary effort among agriculture, municipalities, business, conservation groups, anglers, and affected government agencies

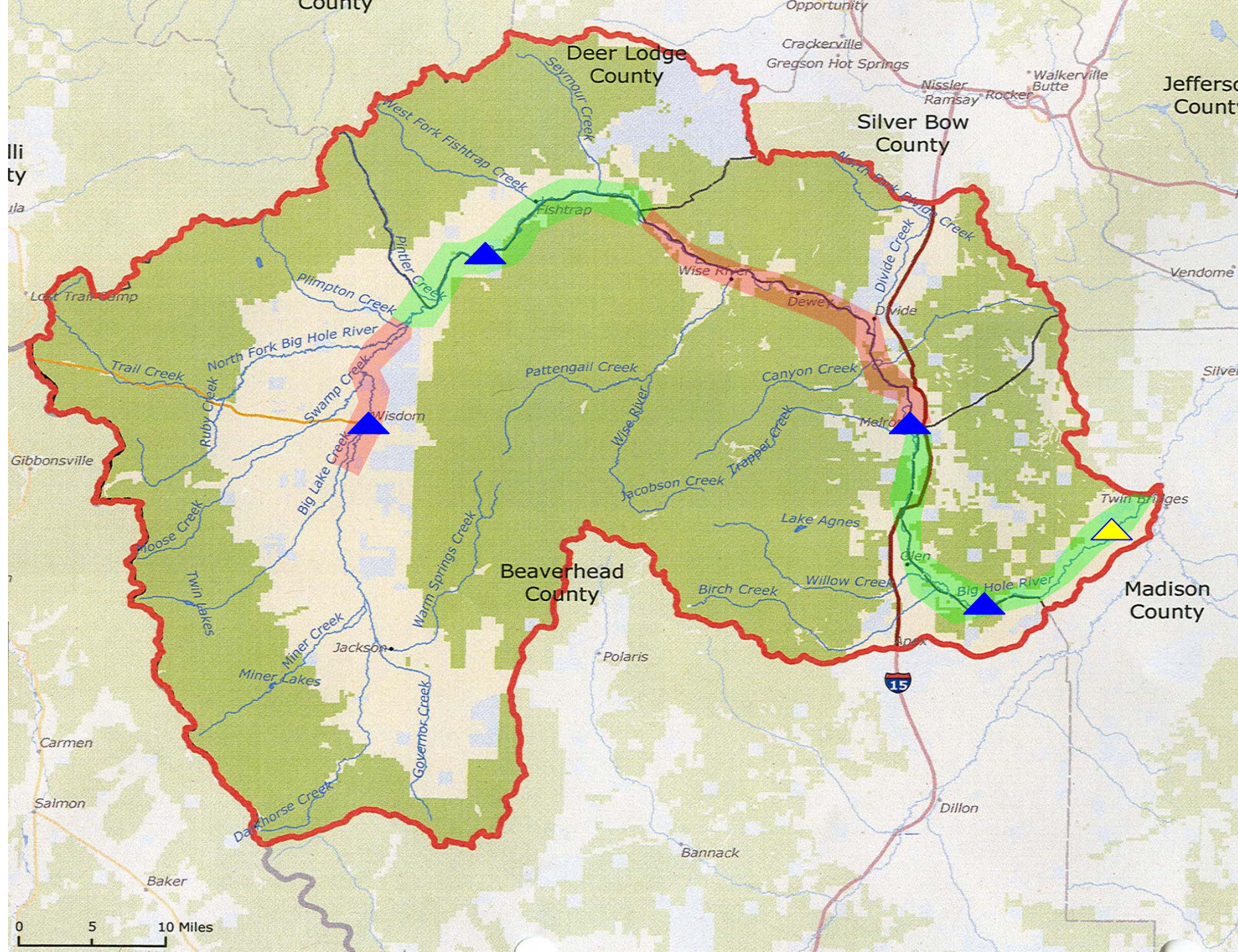
Roles and Responsibilities

Big Hole Watershed Committee

- Educate interested and affected parties;
- Develop, adopt, and modify annually the dry year plan;
- Receive, monitor, and act on information regarding stream conditions and snow pack levels throughout the year;
- Notify interested and affected parties of implementation and secure support;

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FW&P), Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), *U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)*:

- Provide accurate and timely information regarding stream conditions and snow pack levels throughout the year;
- Provide technical assistance in reviewing the plan and monitoring its implementation;
- Ensure coordination of effort among all affected government agencies.
- Contact and inform media of dry year plan implementation and stream flow and temperature status.



Flow Triggers	Trigger #1	Trigger #2	Trigger #3
	Encourage Conservation	Voluntary Limitations	Fishing Closure
Rock Creek Road to Mouth of North Fork	60 cfs	40 cfs	20 cfs
Mouth of North Fork to Dickie Bridge	100 cfs	80 cfs	60 cfs
Dickie Bridge to Melrose Bridge	260 cfs	200 cfs	140 cfs
Melrose Bridge to Confluence with Jefferson River	250 cfs	200 cfs	150 cfs

Thermal Triggers	Trigger #1	Trigger #2	Trigger #3
	Encourage Conservation	Voluntary Limitations	Fishing Closure
When temperatures exceed 70°F for more than 8 hours per day for 3 consecutive days, and evidence of thermally induced stress to the fishery occurs, and flows are:			
Rock Creek Road to Mouth of North Fork	>30 cfs	25 – 30 cfs	<25 cfs
Mouth of North Fork to Dickie Bridge	>90 cfs	70 – 90 cfs	<70 cfs
Dickie Bridge to Melrose Bridge	TBD	TBD	TBD
Melrose Bridge to Confluence with Jefferson River	230 cfs	180 – 230 cfs	<180 cfs



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

Region 3, 1400 S. 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone: 406-994-4042; Fax: 406-994-4090; Web: fwp.mt.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 15, 2007

Contact: Dick Oswald, 406-683-9310 (Big Hole River)
Ron, Spoon, 406-266-4237 (Jefferson River)

FISHING CLOSURES PUT IN PLACE ON ENTIRE BIG HOLE AND JEFFERSON RIVERS BEGINNING AUGUST 17

BOZEMAN—Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks announced today that all fishing on the entire Big Hole River and the entire Jefferson River will close effective Friday, Aug. 17 at 12:01 a.m. due to extremely low flows that threaten the rivers' wild trout and grayling populations.

The Big Hole closure covers the 102 miles from the mouth of the North Fork (15 miles north of Wisdom) to the mouth near Twin Bridges. The Jefferson closure covers the entire 77 miles of the river from Twin Bridges to Three Forks.

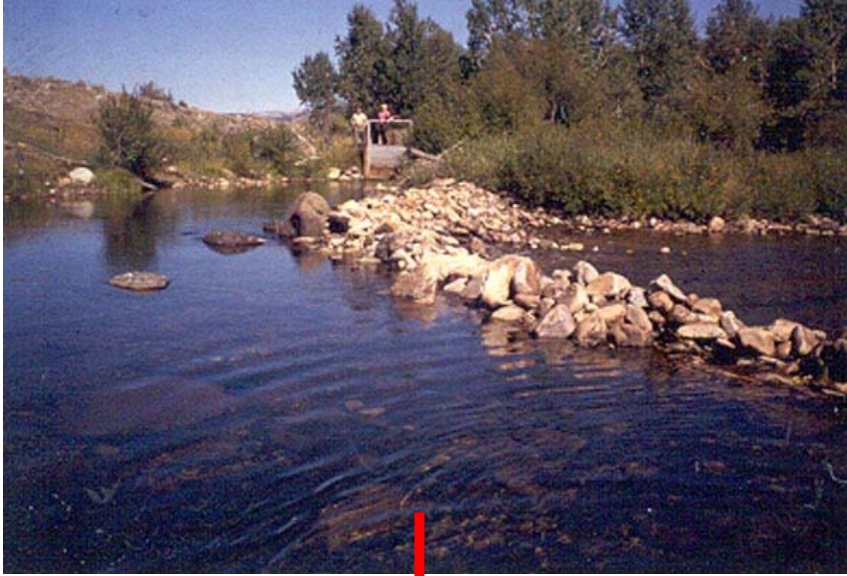
Anglers are reminded that the upper reach of the Big Hole (Rock Creek Road approximately five miles south of Wisdom to the mouth of the North Fork) remains closed to all fishing. This closure went into effect on July 5 after reaching flow triggers identified in the Big Hole Watershed Drought Plan.

CCAA-Reach Water Management

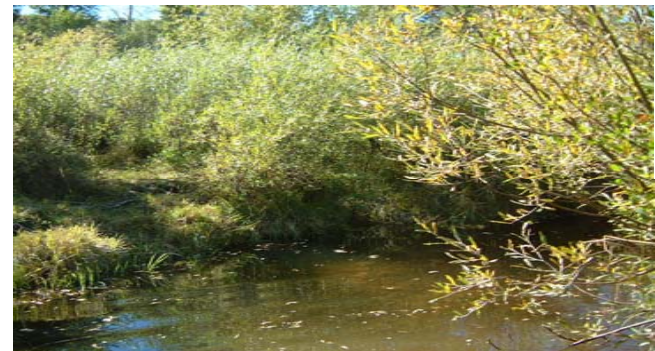


Drought Management Plan Benefits & Needs

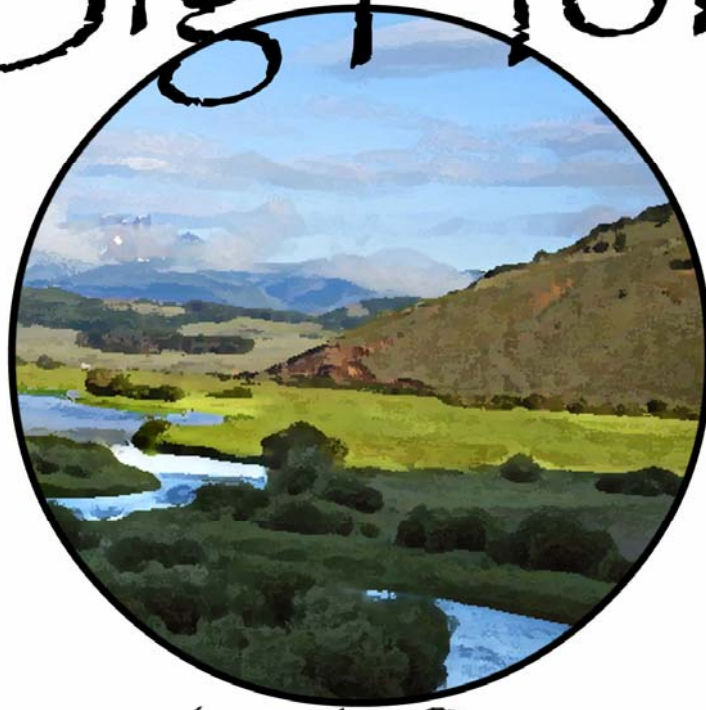
- Increased awareness
- Improved streamflow conditions???
- Dynamic of participatory problem-solving
 - Focus on Interests -not People
- Adjudication
- Support to implement water management improvements
 - Stockwater wells
 - New headgates
 - Flow gauges
- Additional data and knowledge
 - Flow gauges
 - Alternative crops



Ditch abandoned due to stockwater well development



Big Hole



Watershed Committee